State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND BOARD MEETING TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF SACRAMENTO/DELTA UPDATES TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY/SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA WATERSHED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) staff has released for public review and comment a final draft of updates to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed (Bay-Delta Plan or Plan). The changes are focused on the portions of the Plan relevant to the Sacramento River watershed, Delta eastside tributaries (including the Calaveras, Cosumnes, and Mokelumne Rivers), and Delta (Sacramento/Delta) for the reasonable protection of fish and wildlife beneficial uses. Comments on the final draft Bay-Delta Plan should be limited to new comments related to the changes to the Plan since the December 2025 draft of the Plan, as described further below.

The State Water Board has also released the final Staff Report/Substitute Environmental Document (Staff Report) in support of the Sacramento/Delta updates to the Bay-Delta Plan, which includes written responses to previously submitted comments. The Staff Report provides information on the potential benefits, environmental impacts, economic effects, and associated mitigation measures for possible alternatives for updating the Sacramento/Delta portions of the Bay-Delta Plan, including the revised proposed Plan amendments evaluated in Chapter 13.

NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board will consider adoption of the final draft Plan and final Staff Report at a public meeting at the following times and locations as described further below.

October 28–29, 2026,
and continuing on October 30, 2026, only if necessary,
beginning at 9:00 am each day
Joe Serna Jr. CalEPA Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

And via Video and Teleconference

BACKGROUND

State law requires that the State Water Board adopt water quality control plans to reasonably protect beneficial uses of water. The Board is required to periodically review its water quality control plans and to update those plans as needed through a public process. The Board protects water quality that affects beneficial uses of water in the Bay-Delta, in part, through its Bay-Delta Plan. The Bay-Delta Plan identifies: (1) beneficial uses of water in the Bay-Delta, which currently include municipal, industrial, agricultural, and fish and wildlife uses; (2) largely flow-based water quality objectives to reasonably protect the beneficial uses; and (3) a program of implementation to achieve the objectives, including monitoring and reporting requirements.

On September 28, 2023, the State Water Board released the draft Staff Report in support of Sacramento/Delta updates to the Bay-Delta Plan for public review and comment. The 2023 draft Staff Report evaluated the following: proposed Plan amendments that were based on the 2018 Framework for a possible Sacramento/Delta update to the Bay-Delta Plan; proposed Voluntary Agreements (VAs), referred to as the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL) proposal; as well as Low Flow and High Flow alternatives and several modular alternatives that would modify the other alternatives. On December 12, 2025, the State Water Board initiated a limited recirculation of the draft Staff Report by releasing a new Chapter 13, *Revised Proposed Plan Amendments*, that included an updated project description and built upon the analyses included in the 2023 draft Staff Report.

The State Water Board released draft updates to the Bay-Delta Plan in October 2024 for public review and comment that incorporated alternatives identified in the 2023 draft Staff Report with revisions based on public comments. The State Water Board released revised draft Plan updates in July 2025 but delayed public comment on that version of the Plan pending further updates, though some parties did submit public comments on the July 2025 draft that are part of the State Water Board's response to comments. The State Water Board released a revised draft Plan in December 2025 together with the limited recirculation of the draft Staff Report. The draft Bay-Delta Plan has been revised in response to comments and a final draft Plan is available for public review and comment on the changes to the Plan since the December 2025 version prior to Board consideration of adoption.

The final Staff Report includes summaries of the changes that were made to the Staff Report and final draft Bay-Delta Plan in response to comments (see Chapter 1, *Executive Summary*).

The final draft Bay-Delta Plan includes new water quality objectives for the reasonable protection of fish and wildlife beneficial uses, specifically for Sacramento River and Delta tributary inflows, cold water habitat, inflow-based Delta outflow, interior Delta flows, and fish viability. The Plan's program of implementation includes a VA pathway that incorporates commitments identified in the HRL proposal and would apply to specified HRL water rights, and a regulatory pathway based on the proposed Plan amendments with modifications that would apply to water rights not specified under the

VA pathway. For a summary of the provisions included in the final draft Bay-Delta Plan, see Section 13.3, *Revised Proposed Plan Amendments*, of the final Staff Report.

In addition, the State Water Board has finalized the Scientific Basis Report Supplement that documents the science supporting anticipated benefits of the HRL commitments. A final draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement was submitted for external scientific peer review in October 2023. The final Scientific Basis Report Supplement includes revisions and responses to peer reviewer comments and is included as Appendix G2 to the final Staff Report.

PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

The Staff Report fulfills the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State Water Board's regulations (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 3775 et seq.), as well as the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and other applicable requirements. The Board's water quality control planning program is a certified regulatory program and is exempt from certain CEQA requirements, such as preparation of an environmental impact report (EIR). The Staff Report has been prepared in lieu of an EIR because it is recognized under CEQA and the regulations implementing CEQA as providing the functional equivalent.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The final draft Plan, final Staff Report, and final Scientific Basis Report Supplement are available on the Board's website. If you need any assistance accessing these documents, please contact staff at SacDeltaComments@waterboards.ca.gov.[1]

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

The State Water Board is accepting written comments on the changes included in the final draft Plan that were not included in the December 2025 version of the Plan. The State Water Board has already considered all previous comments received on prior drafts of the Plan, including comments on the December 2025 version. In order to be fully considered, written comments on the final draft Plan must be received no later than **September 18, 2026**. The Board is not accepting further comments on the final Staff Report or final Scientific Basis Report Supplement that were previously released for public comment.

To support efficient review of written comments, commenters are encouraged to organize their letters using clear formatting to identify the specific provisions of the Plan their comments pertain to.

Comments should be submitted via email to SacDeltaComments@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line "**Comment Letter – Final Draft Bay-Delta Plan**." If comments exceed email file size limitations, please send an email to the address above at least 24

[1] Track changes versions of the final draft Plan and chapters of the final Staff Report will be available on the State Water Board's file transfer protocol (FTP) site. To obtain the information to access the FTP site, contact SacDeltaComments@waterboards.ca.gov.

hours in advance of the comment deadline for assistance with submitting documents via the Board's FTP site.

BOARD MEETING INFORMATION

Interested persons will have the opportunity to provide oral comments at the Board meeting where the State Water Board will consider adoption of the final draft Bay-Delta Plan and the supporting final Staff Report. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants. The meeting will include both a physical meeting location and an option to participate remotely as described below. A Board meeting agenda will be available at least 10 days before the meeting.

If you wish to make an individual comment, please fill out a virtual speaker card by the deadline noted below. Speakers should provide oral comments at only one Board meeting date and should indicate on the form whether they plan to participate remotely or in-person. For those who plan to participate virtually, the Clerk to the Board will email you one business day before the Board meeting with the information needed to join the meeting. To ensure all participants have an opportunity to be heard, comments will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker unless otherwise directed by the Board Chair depending on the number of commenters waiting to be heard.

For those who wish to provide similar comments as part as a group for efficiency purposes, please email SacDeltaComments@waterboards.ca.gov by the deadline identified below. Requests to provide comments as a group should include the (1) names, affiliations, and email addresses of each member of the group, and (2) the meeting date on which the group is requesting to speak. The total time allotted for each group will be no more than 20 minutes and may be further limited based on the number of participants.

Individuals or groups that would like to make a PowerPoint presentation must submit their PowerPoint presentation to SacDeltaComments@waterboards.ca.gov by the deadline identified below.

To ensure a well-organized and efficient meeting, please adhere to the following deadlines:

Board Meeting Dates	**Deadline**	**Date**
October 28–29, 2026 (October 30 if necessary)	Requests for group comments	October 19, 2026
	PowerPoint presentations	October 23, 2026
	Virtual speaker cards	October 27, 2026

For those who only wish to watch the meeting, a webcast will be available at youtube.com/user/BoardWebSupport and video.calepa.ca.gov (closed captioning available) and should be used unless you intend to comment.

FUTURE NOTIFICATIONS
To receive future email notifications about the Bay-Delta Plan processes, including notice of annual and periodic reviews and future opportunities for public comment, subscribe to the "Bay Delta Notices" topic (listed under Water Rights).

AVAILABILITY OF LANGUAGE SERVICES
To request oral interpretation or sign language services, please submit your request at least 10 business days before the hearing by contacting the Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs at (916) 341-5254 or OPP-LanguageServices@waterboards.ca.gov.

Telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at: TTY (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

VISITING THE CALEPA BUILDING
All visitors to the CalEPA Building are required to sign in at the security guard station located just inside the main entrance. Visit the CalEPA website for additional information on traveling to the CalEPA Building.

CONTACT INFORMATION
For questions regarding this notice, email SacDeltaComments@waterboards.ca.gov.

August 19, 2026
Date

Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board